

Discovering Fort Smith National Historic Site Building Tour

Topic: Discovering people and events that shaped Fort Smith as a community and a National Historic Site.

Goal: Students will research and present their finding about in the historic jails (2), US Deputy Marshals, Judge Isaac C. Parker and his courtroom, and events that shaped in Fort Smith.

Objectives: Students will be able to:

- Do research on various topics
- Orally present what they learned
- Discuss crimes that were committed in Indian Territory
- Explain Fort Smith's role in Westward Expansion
- Discuss the hardships of life in the Indian Territory
- Explain the dangers faced by jailers and deputy marshals doing their duty
- Explain the steps from arrest to trial
- Discuss the Trail of Tears
- List the different ways the building has been used
- Discuss how prisoners should be treated

Common Core and State Standards identified in the lesson include

Reading

Key Ideas and Details

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

10. Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

Speaking and Listening

Comprehension and Collaboration

1. Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

4. Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Language

Conventions of Standard English

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

Instructional Plan

Total instruction time 1 hour 15 minutes

- When students arrive the gather everyone in the theater or the classroom for brief introduction and instructions by park staff.
- Students will divide into 11 groups small groups (2 -4).
- They are be given their “discovery sheets” make sure they know the pages are front and back.
- Give each group directions their discovery locations. There is a map at the top of each sheet
- Students will have 15 minutes to fill out their discovery sheets.
- Students will share their discoveries with the rest of the class beginning in the 1st jail and proceed to other locations in order:
 1. 1st jail
 2. The Jail, Prisoners, and Jailors
 3. US Marshal Service
 4. Outlaws
 5. End of Indian Territory
 6. Westward Expansion
 7. Growth of Fort Smith 1822-1856
 8. Growth of Fort Smith 1864-1891
 9. Life in the Indian Territory
 10. Workings of the court
 11. Judge Parker
- Spend approximately 3-4 minutes at each discovery location.
- Encourage students to summarize what they discovered and not just read the answers.

*During the 15 minutes check in with each group to make sure each is on track.

This works best for groups no larger than 45.